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Agent Outlines Spending at Ex-Aides' Trial

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A Marine Corps major traced for a Federal jury in Alexandria yesterday the course of several thousand dollars entrusted to him as a special Defense Department agent and disbursed to two Pentagon officials.

The officials, William H. Godel and John A. Wylie, are being tried for conspiracy and embezzlement.

Maj. William R. Corson told the Court he was appointed a "Class A Agent" for the Pentagon in June, 1962. Such an agent handles out-of-the-ordinary funds for Defense Department officials.

The appointment was made verbally by Wylie, then director of Budget and Finance at the Pentagon, but Corson said he never received a written confirmation of the action.

Corson's Class-A Agent account was opened with \$15,000.

Over the next few months, Corson said he paid a portion of the money to Wylie and Godel after they had submitted requests saying they were for special projects.

In late October, 1963, Corson said Wylie asked that the three men meet early in the morning at an Arlington motel, where, he testified, "Wylie asked if my account had been audited and I told him it had been last month."

Wylie frequently seemed "almost incoherent" during the breakfast, Corson recalled, and "the conversation was extremely elliptical."

On Nov. 5, the Secretary of Defense called in all "Class A Agent" accounts for a final rendering, Corson said.

Of Corson's original \$15,000, he said Wylie was indebted to him for \$1550 and Godel for \$3031. Corson was ordered to return with Godel's and

Wylie's money the same afternoon. The money was paid and the account was settled.

Corson was not cross-examined during the second day of the trial.

Several witnesses during the day mentioned a special aid project in Viet-Nam, which

Godel was helping to establish. Judge Oren R. Lewis insisted that references to the Southeast Asian nation be kept to a minimum.

"Several people here want to try the Viet-Nam war over again," he said, "I'm not going to permit it."